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12. (Twice Amended) A surgical probe, comprising:
a relatively short, relatively stiff shaft defining a distal portion, a distal end and a proximal portion;
an inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element associated with the distal portion of the shaft that allows substantially no liquid perfusion therethrough; and
a needle slidably mounted within the shaft and movable relative to the shaft such that a distal portion of the needle extends outwardly from the distal end of the shaft, the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element being mounted on the distal portion of the needle.

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15. (Amended) A surgical probe system, comprising:
a surgical probe including a relatively short, relatively stiff shaft defining a distal portion and a proximal portion and an inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element associated with the distal portion of the shaft that allows substantially no liquid perfusion therethrough; and
a fluid source operably connected to the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element and adapted to maintain pressure within the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element at a predetermined level.

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21. (Twice Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a pressure sensor adapted to determine the pressure within the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element.

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23. (Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the fluid source comprises a pump.

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24. (Twice Amended) A surgical probe system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the fluid source continuously infuses fluid to and ventilates fluid from the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element.

26. (Twice Amended) A surgical probe system, comprising:

a surgical probe including a relatively short, relatively stiff shaft defining a distal portion, a distal end and a proximal portion and an inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element associated with the distal portion of the shaft that allows substantially no liquid perfusion therethrough;

36 a fluid source operably connected to the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element and adapted to maintain pressure within the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element at a predetermined level; and

a needle slidably mounted within the shaft and movable relative to the shaft such that a distal portion of the needle extends outwardly from the distal end of the shaft, the inflatable, energy transmitting lesion formation element being mounted on the distal portion of the needle.

33. (Twice Amended) A surgical probe, comprising:

a hollow needle; and

37 a therapeutic assembly, located within the hollow needle and movable relative thereto, including a relatively short shaft defining a distal portion and a proximal portion, an inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element associated with the distal portion of the shaft and a hollow stylet movable relative to the relatively short shaft, the relatively short shaft being located within the stylet.

39. (Amended) A surgical probe system, comprising:

a surgical probe including a relatively short shaft defining a distal portion and a proximal portion and an inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element associated with the distal portion of the shaft; and

38 a cooling fluid source operably connected to the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element and adapted to maintain pressure within the inflatable therapeutic element at a predetermined level and to continuously infuse and ventilate cooling fluid to and from the inflatable, energy transmitting therapeutic element.